

George Bucklin House
10 Arnold Street
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-175

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
75-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. RI-175

GEORGE BUCKLIN HOUSE

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
75-

Address: 10 Arnold Street, Providence, Providence County,
Rhode Island.
Plat 16, Lot 342.

Present Owner: Barbara B. Noyes

Present Occupant: Mary F. Kiely

Present Use: Dwelling

Brief Statement of Significance: Built in the early nineteenth century, this is an unusual example of a small, frame row house, sharing party walls on both sides.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

Lot #3 in the division of the Estate of Chris. Arnold in 1792. Deed Book 7, page 391, in Providence City Hall. S side of Arnold Street

1792 James Arnold and Christopher Arnold sell to Sarah Godfrey, widow, certain lots of land on the E/ly side of Benefit Street as part of our portion of the Estate of our late honored Father Christopher Arnold, dec., and quit claim to her lots #2. . . also #2, 6, 9, 12, on the plat aforesaid. . . Deed Book 22, page 414, in Providence City Hall.

1797 Sarah Godfrey, widow, to her daughter Mary Davis, widow, gives a certain lot of land in the S/ly part of Providence and on the E/ly side of Arnold, being the Lot #3 in the division of the Estate of Christopher Arnold dec., bounded:

N by Arnold Street
E by Lot #4 (in the division)
S by Joseph Tillinghast
W by Grantor's 2 sons Chris and Richard Godfrey

and is the land set off to the grantor in the aforesaid Division. . . Deed Book 29, page 313, in Providence City Hall.

1825 Mary Davis sells for \$150 to George Bucklin and wife Sarah, a certain lot of land bounded: N by Arnold Street 45'; E by Walker Humphrey 80'; S by Jeremiah Tillinghast 45'; W by William Bucklin 80'. . . Deed Book 50, page 97 in Providence City Hall. The Bucklins lived here until

1908 Property was taxed to John Church Burchard and to the following persons in the year designated:

1921 Caroline M. Cassidy
1929 Godfrey B Simonds
1946 Elizabeth G Pattee
1951 Harvey Reynolds
1959 Barbara B Noyes

2. Date of erection: Built for George Bucklin, probably soon after he bought the property in 1825.

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdey
for the Providence Preservation Society
December 1961

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Built soon after 1825, this is an unusual example of a small frame row house. 8, 10, and 12 Arnold Street are adjoining houses with party walls. Number 8 was built for William Bucklin a few years earlier than number 10, probably about 1816. They are both two-story, gable roof houses, three bays wide, with entrances at the side front. Both doors are without pediments, and have bracketed cornices and over door lights, typical of Providence detail about 1800 to 1830. Number 12, built in 1850 for Menzies Sweet, is an Italian Villa, made of sandstone and small in scale.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Main block, 23' wide (3 bays) x two rooms deep, two stories plus finished attic, facing north. Rear wing, apparently somewhat later, about 10' wide, extending from southeast side of main block.
2. Wall construction: Frame with clapboards.

3. Porches: Small rear porch off kitchen in rear wing, wood, with stairway leading down to yard at cellar level in the rear.
4. Chimneys: Two chimneys in the side walls of the main block, toward the front in the east wall serving the parlor, toward the rear in the west wall serving the dining room.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Doorway at right (westernmost bay) with glazed transom. Doorway has flat cornice with scroll consoles or brackets.
 - b. Windows: six over six light double hung windows.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape: Gable roof.
 - b. Cornice: Molded wood cornice.
 - c. Dormers: Small dormers on both north and south sides of roof of main block, light the small attic rooms.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Main block: Entrance - stair hall at northwest, parlor at northeast, dining room southwest, pantry and closet at southeast. Kitchen in rear wing. Bedrooms on second floor in similar arrangement. Three small rooms and bathroom on third floor of main block.
2. Stairways: Open string, straight run with short turn at the top, carved sunburst step end ornaments, molded handrail, two square balusters per step, turned newel. Continues to third floor.
3. Flooring: Wide board floors.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, papered or painted.
5. Doorways and doors: Six-panel doors, flat panels on first and second floors, molded architraves, with an inner bolection molding added to give effect of a double architrave on first floor. Four-panel doors on third floor.
6. Trim: Molded chair rails and ceiling cornices in parlor and dining room.

7. Hardware: Iron hardware, thumb latches and butt hinges. Later hardware in rear wing.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Central with radiators plus fireplaces in parlor and dining room, and in the two bedrooms above them. Bedroom mantels have complex molded pilaster trim and mantel shelves. Living room mantel, molded pilaster trim, center panel on entablature, projecting molded mantel shelf. Dining room mantel, engaged colonettes, complex projecting molded mantel shelf.

D. Site

General setting: On sidewalk on north front, party walls on both sides, small rear garden at cellar level.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
January 1962.